

Please accept this as testimony against the proposed legislation SB 1105. As a relative of a child with autism and an executive a marketing agency that regularly donates time to help raise money and support for Autism education in CT I cannot see any good coming from this proposed legislation. We all understand that budgets in public schools will be under considerable pressure in the next few years, but reducing the qualifications of those that are hired to protect and help our children to help solve this problem is the equivalent of trying to fix the health care crisis by allowing anyone to practice medicine because that will surely be less expensive than hiring a qualified doctor, right?

The other items of concern are:

- A. the professionals identified in the language of the bill are not qualified to provide these services
- B. there are already not enough SLP's, special education teachers and psychologists to meet CT's current educational needs so adding additional responsibilities to these professions will not meaningfully increase the number of providers
- C. without proper service delivery students with autism not only will not learn but can regress causing the cost of later treatment and lifelong care to increase
- D. supervision and direction by a designated administrator will add to the cost of providing services while decreasing the ability of qualified personnel to do their jobs

I hope you take the time to listen to the concerns of parents and friends of children with autism as this bill will not provide a short term or long term solution to the issues.

Best,
Jim McDonald